

From: Keith Bellows
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 4:10pm
Subject: DOJ/Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

To whom it may concern,

By forcing Microsoft to give away its software free to anyone does nothing more than perpetrate the monopoly that Microsoft now cherishes. This does nothing more than play into Microsoft's hands.

Please I implore you to think this through before rendering a decision of this magnitude. Most people do not care how a computer works only that they can use it. Microsoft's O/S product offerings are substandard and very buggy. Yes the latest releases are better but let me point to the simple worms and virus that are continually being released which take advantage of Microsoft Windows vulnerabilities. These issues have been with the software for years, Microsoft claims to develop patches for them but NEVER does fix the real problem.

By forcing schools to use Microsoft offerings because they are free would be a huge disservice to those schools and in my opinion puts the Gov't in the back pocket of Microsoft. There are tangible alternatives to Microsoft for Operating Systems (O/Ss) as well as applications that are low cost or no cost. It has been my experience that as often as not that the free or low cost software works as well if not better than the Microsoft alternative. Allow these schools the opportunity to use what they want for an O/S.

What the schools really need is the Hardware and not some 5 year old junk computers that can barely run under today's requirements. If you feel that Microsoft needs to give away something then force them to buy Hardware for these schools!

I live in Washington and am in the technology industry, any kind of judgement that is worth rendering could affect our economy. I say do it, the law is the law and Microsoft broke it. If the products the company offers are as good as they say they are they will be continue, in a true and free market, to be a leading technology provider. Let them prove themselves against real competition.

Sincerely Yours
Keith Bellows

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Keith Bellows || Itron Inc.
Sr. Technician || 2818 North Sullivan
Technical Support Engineering || Spokane, WA 99216
<http://www.itron.com> || 509.891.3621

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